

It's not enough that right wingers control so much of the media while constantly falsely claiming that broadcast journalism and written media are liberal cabals controlled by people with a socialist agenda. Now they are taking on the upstarts who want to give listeners choices. Choosing to try to block alternatives to traditional broadcast media rather than trying to compete by improving themselves, the members of the National Association of Broadcasters are agitating for legislation to prevent the expansion of satellite radio. XM Radio is probably not what people think of when they think of the little guy, but at least it offers choices that are few and far between on traditional radio. Conglomerates like Clear Channel are the Stepford Wives of the airwaves offering scant variety and undermining the spontaneity of new artists and composers. When was the last time you heard competitive viewpoints on radio on any topic. Unless you live in a place like New York which has WLIB and offers an outlet for Air America or unless you have streaming internet access via broadband, you probably think the music and a variety of opinions on other subjects died around the time Don McLean first sang Bye Bye Miss American Pie. Is it that no one's writing this stuff or is it that there are no outlets for opinions that are not popular with the neocons? Why is it when I want to hear a good old progressive or liberal point of view when I'm outside of the New York Metro Area, I have to hope that the place I am visiting offers a highspeed internet connection? Is it some socialist plot by the left-wing media to make me so unhappy with the radio that I turn it off? That would be mighty twisted. I am sick to death of homogenized entertainment and right-wing commentary. To paraphrase the ad campaign that MTV ran when it launched oh so many years ago..."I want my XM RADIO!" And by the way I want a variety of alternative on broadcast radio too. So the members of the NAB should stop fooling around in DC with trying to stop variety, and they should start offering it themselves